



**TENNESSEE'S BEST KEPT SECRET:
A HAVEN IN THE HILLS**

**SELF GUIDED HISTORY
TOUR**

**WALTON HARVEST
FESTIVAL AND EVENTS!**

**CAMPING, KAYAKING,
AND MORE!**

Experience Smith County, TN

Small Town ~ Hometown

Photo by Rusty Gentry

Welcome **TO** OUR Small Town

Experience Smith County: a magazine crafted with love by folks who bleed the colors of their close-knit communities. We're longtime residents who cherish the Friday night lights, the friendly faces at the local diner, and the quiet beauty of starry nights. Here, we celebrate the unique rhythms of small-town life, sharing stories, tips, and triumphs that resonate with anyone who's ever felt the warmth of a front-porch swing and the strength of a community that binds. So, pull up a chair, grab a glass of sweet tea, and join us as we explore the joys, quirks, and enduring spirit of small-town life.

Everybody's Famous in a Small Town:

Photographs throughout the magazine are taken by folks from around here!

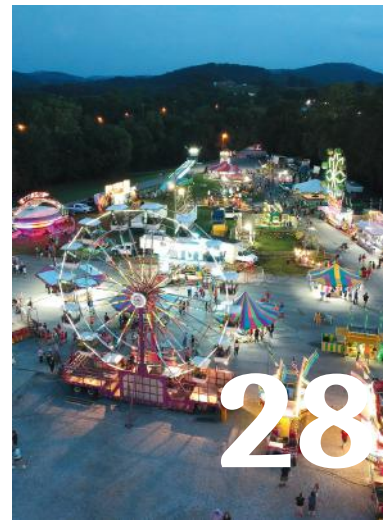
All Articles are written by the locals.

And the entire magazine is a project by those who love this community!





HIGHLIGHTS



TN's Best Kept Secret

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Small town charm and big hearts are what await you on your visit to Smith County, TN.

Paddle Through Paradise

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Smith County is home to numerous river access points along both the Caney Fork and Cumberland Rivers

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A map with the picture perfect locations in Smith County. Utilize the print copy or scan the QR code for an interactive map linked to GPS locations.

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Immerse yourself in the stories of small town business owners then come meet them on you visit!

Events

16, 20, 28

William Walton Festival, Parades, Halloween, Easter, and the Fair on the River!



TENNESSEE'S BEST KEPT SECRET



A Haven in the Hills

Nestled amidst rolling hills and sparkling waterways, Smith County, Tennessee, beckons travelers seeking a respite from the ordinary. Forget the hustle and bustle of big-city life; here, time slows down, and a sense of community reigns supreme.

Small Town Charm with a Big Heart

Step into Smith County, and you'll be greeted by the warmth of a true Southern welcome. Main Streets lined with locally-owned shops invite you to browse unique finds and handcrafted treasures. Friendly faces greet you with a smile, and conversation flows freely. This is a place where neighbors know each other, and the pace of life is refreshingly unhurried.

Unwind and Reconnect

Pitch a tent and reconnect with nature under a star-studded sky at one of Smith County's campgrounds. Breathe in the fresh air, listen to the symphony of birdsong, and escape the daily grind.



A Paradise for Outdoor Enthusiasts

Smith County boasts a breathtaking natural landscape that will leave you breathless. Canoe or kayak down the scenic Caney Fork River, a haven for paddlers of all skill levels. Reel in a trophy catch on the mighty Cumberland River, renowned for its world-class fishing. Explore the hidden coves and pristine waters of Cordell Hull Lake, a paradise for boaters and water enthusiasts.



TENNESSEE'S BEST KEPT SECRET **A Haven in the Hills**



Immerse Yourself in Local Culture

Throughout the year, Smith County comes alive with a vibrant calendar of local events. From farmers markets overflowing with seasonal bounty to lively festivals celebrating local music and art, there's always something to experience.



More Than Just a Destination, It's a Feeling

Smith County transcends the idea of a mere destination; it's a place that weaves a tapestry of experiences that linger long after you leave. It's the feeling of the warm Tennessee sun gracing your skin as you explore a hidden waterfall, the cool water of the Caney Fork River lapping at your toes as you paddle downstream, and the joyous echoes of laughter bouncing off the verdant hills as you share stories around a crackling campfire. It's the simple pleasures that touch all your senses: the sweet creaminess of homemade ice cream melting on your tongue after a day of adventure, the intoxicating aroma of freshly baked bread wafting from a local coffee shop, and the soulful melodies of bluegrass music filling the air during a lively street fair. Here, in the heart of Smith County, you'll find a place where time slows down, and genuine connections are fostered. It's a place that leaves you feeling rejuvenated, inspired, and with a newfound appreciation for the simple beauty of life.



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Rusty Gentry

Front Cover Photographer

A lifelong Smith County resident who stumbled into a fascination with photography on my first trip to the U.S. west. "I was overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of this new place I had traveled and my inability to photograph what I was seeing". I have spent countless hours trying to improve ever since.

My wife of 38 years, Tina, is my travel partner, and my extra hand on my photography adventures. We make our home on Bradford Hill Rd. in South Carthage.

Rusty's amazing photos are featured throughout the magazine and on the beautiful front and back covers!



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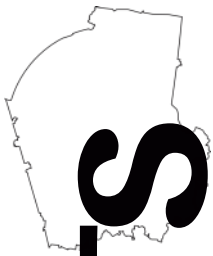


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May you never be discouraged
by the shocks of adversity; nor
may the furnace of prosperity, ever
sing a hair of your head, but
holding fast to the golden—
Mediocrity may you live a
long, happy and prosperous
life Sincerely Yours
S. Carolina John Bates
May 1825 Wal June 1848





SAV-WAY

Your hometown market

Our business began 28 years ago in South Carthage. We were always dreaming of expanding our business. After 22 years in the old store, we took a leap of faith and purchased the Smith County Plaza.

We remodeled the whole place and opened in June 2018. And we haven't looked back since. We have been truly blessed with the support of the community. We look forward to many more years of serving Smith County.

- Todd, Angela, and Ray Scurlock

Sav-way is the epitome of small town life. Walking into the grocery store to pick up a loaf of bread and being able to have a conversation with the actual owners seems like a pipe dream to those in big cities, but it is a way of life for those here in Smith County! Be sure to stop by and say hi to the Scurlocks whenever you're in town!





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PADDLE THROUGH PARADISE



Kayaking the Caney Fork River in Smith County, Tennessee

Smith County, Tennessee, boasts a hidden gem for outdoor enthusiasts: the Caney Fork River. This scenic waterway winds its way through the heart of the state, offering paddlers of all skill levels an unforgettable kayaking adventure. Whether you're a seasoned kayaker seeking a challenging course or a leisurely floater enjoying a peaceful afternoon on the water, the Caney Fork has something for everyone.



Planning Your Trip

The Caney Fork is a paddler's paradise year-round, but spring and fall offer the most comfortable temperatures. Spring brings vibrant wildflowers along the banks, while fall paints the landscape in stunning shades of red and gold.

Untamed Beauty

The Caney Fork snakes through rolling hills and lush forests, creating a landscape that feels worlds away from civilization. Paddle beneath towering bluffs adorned with vibrant wildflowers, and keep an eye out for eagles soaring overhead. The serenity of the river is only occasionally broken by the gentle rush of rapids, adding a touch of excitement to your journey.

Paddler's Paradise

Smith County boasts several access points for the Caney Fork, making it incredibly convenient to tailor your kayaking adventure. Whether you prefer a short, scenic jaunt or a longer expedition, there are put-in and take-out locations that perfectly suit your plans.

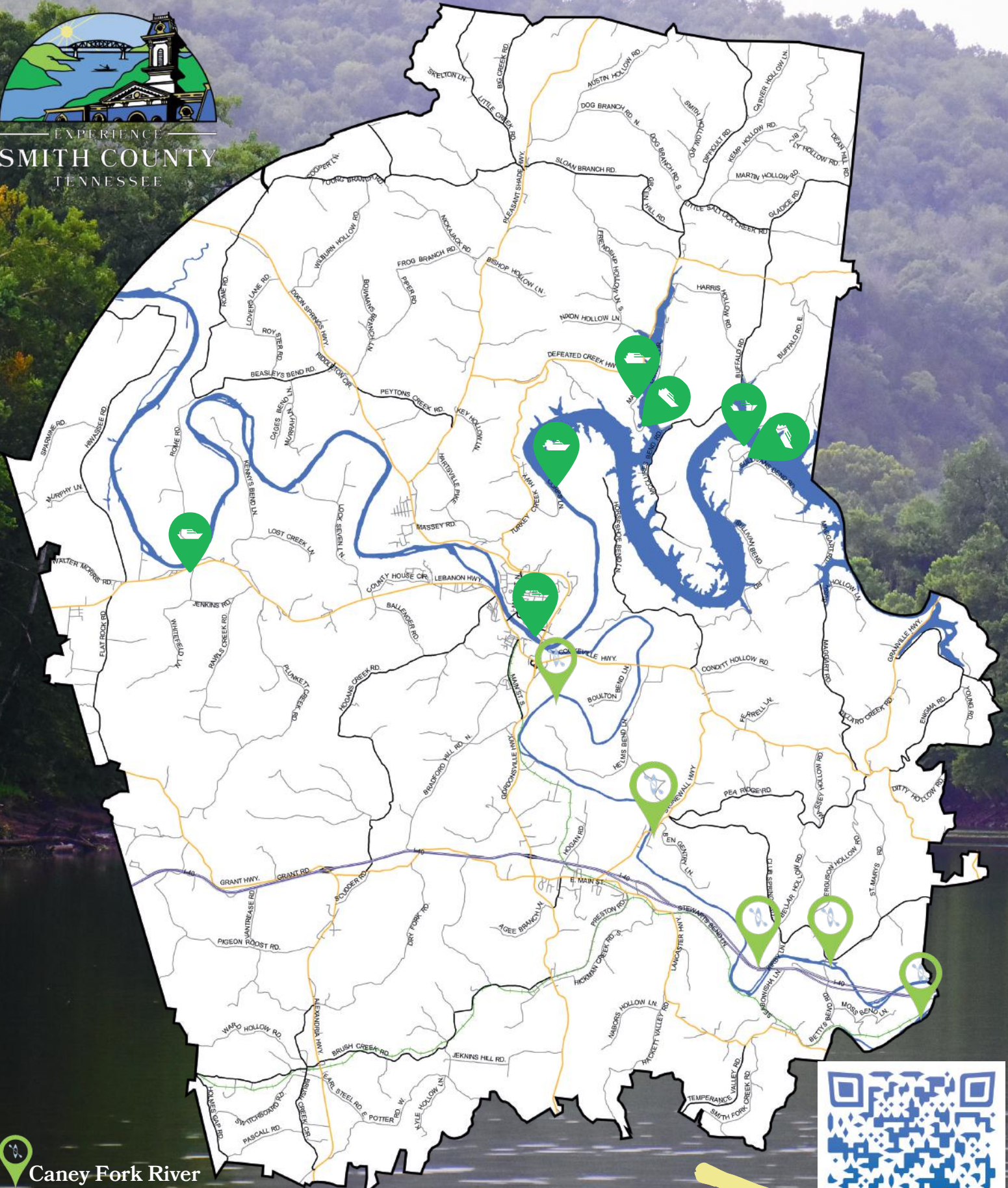
Explore and Discover

While Smith County's 24 mile stretch of the Caney Fork offers a calmer pace on the water, there's no shortage of adventure waiting on the banks. Here, you can trade rapids for exploration, immersing yourself in the rich history and natural beauty that surrounds the river.


River Access Points



EXPERIENCE
SMITH COUNTY
TENNESSEE



 Caney Fork River

 Cumberland River

Interactive Map 





Facebook



Full Story



Virginia and Susan often talked about opening the business. They even bought their water dispenser about 10 years ago in hopes to see the dream come to reality. They looked at multiple buildings over the years and even considered a food truck until their husbands reminded them they don't know how to pull a trailer.

In 2021, Carthage, TN found a new reason to linger over a cup of joe with the arrival of Rokabilly Coffee. Virginia Alexander and Susan Solimine, a mother-daughter team with a shared love of coffee and community, brought their dream to life. Starting with the hope of a small, local hangout, they were quickly embraced by the town, growing from a two-person team to a bustling shop with seven employees.

Susan, a baker since childhood (who vividly remembers a flour-dusted kitchen after her first attempt at chocolate chip cookies!), creates mouthwatering, homemade pastries daily. These include her legendary cinnamon rolls, a family tradition baked with a rolling pin crafted by her father over 80 years ago. The aroma of these treats fills the shop, and spills out into the back alley, a delightful invitation for passersby.



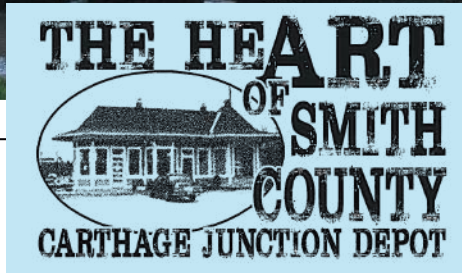
There's No Place Like Home

Virginia spent years working in downtown development and dreaming of a Carthage coffee haven. They meticulously restored the historic building, exposing the original brick walls, ceiling, and chimney. Transom windows above the storefront add to the charm, while local art adorns the walls, changing quarterly to showcase the community's creativity. A mural in the back, a celebration of Rokabilly's business loan payoff, reminds everyone of the power of community support.

Rokabilly Coffee isn't just about the delicious treats and historic ambience. Each handcrafted espresso drink is made to order using a top-of-the-line LaMarzocco machine from Florence, Italy. Their cold brew boasts a velvety blend that takes 24 hours to steep, and their beans are sourced from a local roaster in Franklin, TN. Virginia, forever grateful to Teresa Harmon who taught her the importance of "people" alongside the art of coffee making at JoZoara Coffee, strives to create a space that's warm and welcoming.

Whether you're a local catching up with friends or a visitor seeking a taste of Carthage's charm, Virginia and Susan invite you to pull up a chair and feel right at home. Breathe in the delicious aroma, savor a cup crafted with care, and become part of the Rokabilly Coffee community.

The Carthage Junction Depot: A Symbol of Resilience



The Carthage Junction Depot isn't just a building; it's a testament to Smith County's spirit. Built in 1888, the depot hummed with activity as a vital stop along the Tennessee Central Railroad. Passengers, freight, and mail flowed through its doors, connecting Carthage to the wider world. World War I and II veterans boarded trains here, departing for service and returning home. The depot became a poignant symbol of connection and community.



Twice Saved, Forever Preserved

As passenger trains faded, uncertainty clouded the depot's future. In 1970, it faced its first threat of demolition. Thankfully, Mr. John Waggoner intervened, relocating the depot from its original home to a few miles away in Gordonsville. Fast forward to 2014, and the depot found itself on borrowed time again. This time, the community rose to the challenge. Through private donations, volunteer muscle, and even the generosity of a roofing company, the depot embarked on a three-mile trek to its current home in South Carthage.



A Rich Past, a Bright Future

The Carthage Junction Depot's story is woven into the fabric of Smith County. Tracks from Gordonsville reached South Carthage, terminating near the future Cordell Hull bridge built in 1934. The depot became a lifeline, connecting Carthage to the county seat via the "middle ferry crossing" on the river. Today, it stands overlooking the Caney Fork River, a constant reminder of a bygone era while embracing a new chapter as a center for artistic expression.



A Community Effort

The depot's restoration is a shining example of community spirit. The Smith County Chamber of Commerce led the charge, but the true heroes are the countless volunteers, businesses, and residents who donated their time, money, and expertise. The project continues to evolve, with plans for a new accessory structure replicating the South Carthage Depot, and a kayak access at Piper's Ford Directly behind the depot on the river. Monthly art shows are held in the depot promoting the local arts and culture of Smith County.



Visit the Depot Today

Step back in time and step into the future at the Carthage Junction Depot. Explore its rich history, be captivated by local art exhibits, and soak in the stunning views of the Caney Fork River. Be sure to check for shows and events happening during your trip. The Carthage Junction Depot hosts art shows at least monthly!





Culture

Carthage, Tennessee, boasts a rich history dating back to the late 18th century. Visitors can step back in time at the Walton Cemetery, the final resting place of Captain William Walton, the town's founder, and a Revolutionary War hero. The Daughters of the American Revolution marker adorning his grave commemorates his significant contributions to American history.

William Walton Festival



William Walton Harvest Festival is a Small Town Celebration at its core. Local vendors, community members, and tourists come together for a day of shopping and fun!



Immerse yourself in autumn magic at the William Walton Harvest Festival! Nestled in historic Carthage, Tennessee, this vibrant celebration explodes with color on the last Saturday of September. Explore a bustling marketplace brimming with local crafts, savor delectable seasonal treats, and enjoy lively music that fills the air. Step back in time at the charming courthouse and crown the Harvest Queen, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Don't miss this quintessential fall experience!

Heritage and Community

Carthage's heritage is deeply intertwined with Captain Walton's legacy. He wasn't just a landowner; his vision and dedication shaped the town's very foundation. His contributions extended far beyond donating land for the courthouse and public buildings. Captain Walton played a pivotal role in establishing Carthage as the county seat, ensuring a central hub for the community to thrive.

His entrepreneurial spirit led to the creation of Walton's Ferry, a crucial transportation link, and the construction of Walton Road, which connected Carthage to other communities and boosted commerce. Furthermore, Captain Walton's commitment to education is evident in his land donation for the Geneva Academy, the forerunner of the present-day school system. This act exemplifies the spirit of cooperation between individuals and the community, a value that continues to resonate today.



Shopping and Family Fun

Immerse yourself in fall festivities at the William Walton Harvest Festival! Held at the historic Smith County Courthouse, this lively event offers something for everyone. Browse through a vibrant marketplace featuring local artisans showcasing their unique crafts, jewelry, and home goods. Savor delicious food from local vendors, tempting your taste buds with seasonal treats.



Enjoy live music and entertainment throughout the day, setting the mood for a delightful autumn celebration. The Harvest Queen Pageant crowns local royalty, adding a touch of small town tradition to the festivities. Family-friendly activities including a charming kids' zone with inflatables and games keep younger visitors entertained. Don't miss the exciting contests like pie eating contests, historic dress contest, and more! The William Walton Harvest Festival is the perfect way to experience the spirit of Carthage and celebrate the bounty of the fall season.



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BB's Bistro

A Gordonsville Gathering Place Built on Heart



Gordonsville, Tennessee, has a warm spot for community spirit – BB's Bistro. Debe Pilant, a retired teacher, remembers the town's gathering place, OJ's. Debe and her husband Greg, inspired by Greg's European culinary adventures, dreamt of reviving that spirit. In 2022, BB's Bistro, named after Debe's nickname from her grandbabies and Greg's travels, was born.

BB's started small but blossomed into a haven of homestyle cooking. They serve generous portions of catfish, melt-in-your-mouth meatloaf, and Memphis-style BBQ, alongside legendary three-hand burgers! Food is just the beginning – BB's fosters connection. Local organizations meet in their private room, and the aroma of fresh-baked desserts mingles with laughter as patrons chat between tables.

The Pilants take pride in their welcoming staff and chefs who transform fresh ingredients into culinary delights. A delightful patio with a firepit and misting fans offers year-round comfort, while live music on Fridays and Saturdays adds to the vibrant atmosphere. Happy hour with \$6 margaritas? Anytime!

BB's Bistro isn't just a restaurant; it's a testament to community. It's where friendships are made, memories are built, and the spirit of Smith County thrives. So next time you're in town, head to BB's Bistro – you just might find yourself feeling like family.

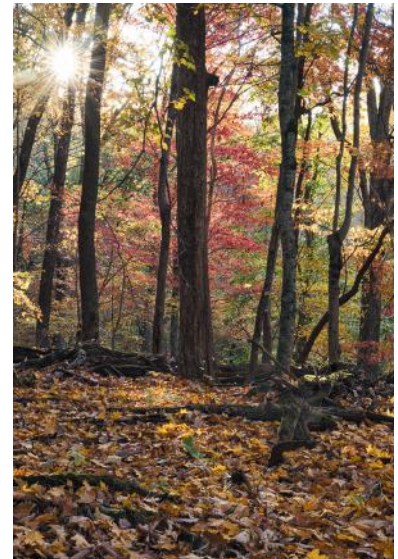
Less than a mile from I-40

A PERFECT SMITH COUNTY DAY

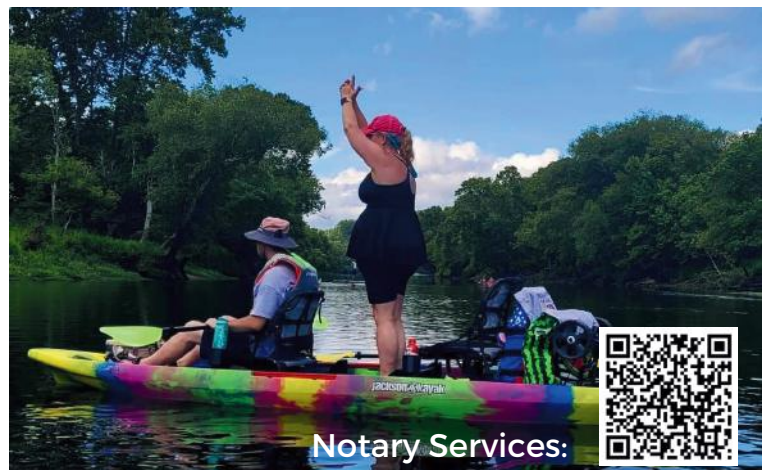
Pure Bliss. Open your eyes to the sun peaking through the curtains in your beautiful room at the Tuscany Inn. You take a quick dip in the hot tub watching the deer graze just down the hill. After lounging in the cozy little cabin style room for a bit your stomach growls reminding you it's time to eat! You decide to head out for breakfast at a lovely, locally owned café recommended by Tamara and Esther when you checked in!



After the most delightful home-cooked country breakfast experience you could have imagined, you start to plan your day. Shopping, hiking, or kayaking? Maybe all three! You stop at a gas station in Gordonsville and ask the attendant what their favorite morning thing to do is. They quickly rattle off a few different local pick-me-up drink shops and you decide coffee and a pastry at Rokabilly sounds amazing! While enjoying your coffee you notice an Outdoors Store across the way and decide to go ask for hiking recommendations!



Relaxed yet invigorated after hiking a good portion of Bear Waller Gap Trail and Kayaking on the Caney for an hour, you sit and enjoy the view from The Overlook: Rolling Hills, Cordell Hull Dam, Water, Wildlife, Bliss. You decide to take a shot in the dark and see if the local spa has any last minute massage openings... THEY DO! And it gives you enough time to run back to the inn and shower first. After what couldn't seem like any better of a vacation day, you meet the sweetest local family at the spa and they invite you to their favorite local tavern for dinner.



Notary Services:

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Back at your little bit of 'Tuscany In Tennessee,' you decide to end your day the way it started: relaxing in the hot tub. This time you are greeted by the chirping of crickets, dancing fireflies, and the distant hoot of an owl. What could be better?

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Contact: Leslie@lsmithbookkeeper.com



Hometown Holidays

Craving a holiday season that evokes simpler times? Look no further than Smith County, Tennessee. Nestled amidst rolling hills and bordering the scenic Caney Fork River, Cordell Hull Lake, and the mighty Cumberland River, this charming small town offers a unique blend of festive spirit, family fun, and outdoor adventure.

Celebrate Like a Local:

Smith County throws open its arms for community-wide celebrations throughout the year. Join the cherished tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt, a delight for all ages. Witness the vibrant costumes and joyous trick-or-treating at not one, but two Halloween celebrations! During the holiday season, marvel at the dazzling lights and festive cheer at two captivating Christmas parades. Don't miss the lively Smith County Fair, the perfect place to celebrate Independence Day.



Adventure & Unforgettable Memories Await:

The beauty of these celebrations? They often begin after peak exploration hours! Spend your day on the water or around town. As the sun sets, immerse yourself in the warm embrace of a hometown holiday celebration. Connect with friendly locals, feel the spirit of togetherness, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

El Corral Mexican Restaurant

Fabian and Olivia Rodriguez decided to come into Gordonsville Tennessee in May 2010. Originally from Murfreesboro TN, a city about 45 minutes away, but you may ask why a small town? Fabian and Olivia wanted something more family like and that's exactly what they found in Gordonsville.

Fabian and Olivia were born in Mexico and came to Tennessee in the late 90's. They came with one dream and one dream only, to open their own restaurant. They found a small space right next to the Pilot on exit 258, right off interstate 40. They brought the tex mex cuisine and delicious margaritas to the town of Gordonsville. As soon as the town found out a Mexican restaurant was being established here business went crazy! The town welcomed them with open arms.



Fast forward to April 2023, El Corral moved to a new location. After 13 years, Fabian and Olivia ended up buying land and building a new restaurant from the ground up. They ended up moving down the street to a bigger and better location. The town of Gordonsville was missing a restaurant with a patio and bar area and that's exactly what Fabian and Olivia did.

Moving to this location meant expanding our menu, we welcomed the quesabirria tacos, our guaca fajita bowls, jumbo costal shrimp and variety of mix drinks.

So the next time you are traveling through Tennessee make sure you stop and see us and enjoy some delicious fajitas and margaritas with us!



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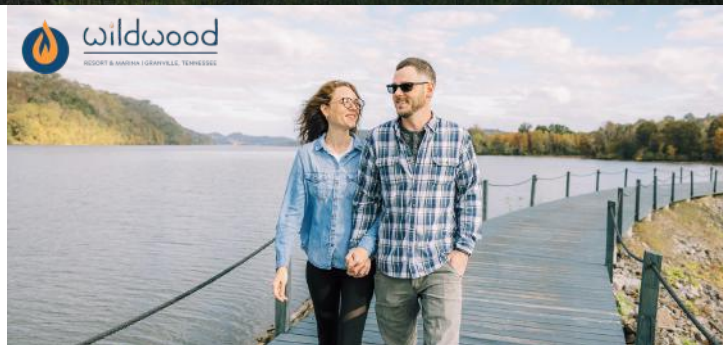
Cordell Hull Lake

A Tranquil Oasis Spanning Three Counties

Nestled amidst the rolling hills of Smith County, Tennessee, Cordell Hull Lake isn't just a stunning body of water – it's a liquid thread connecting three unique counties. This vibrant reservoir boasts a rich legacy, breathtaking scenery, and exciting outdoor activities, making it a haven for curious travelers.

A Lake Forging Connections

Construction of Cordell Hull Dam began in 1963, a project envisioned to bring flood control and economic development to the region. However, the resulting 12,000-acre lake transcended its original purpose. Its shimmering waters now stretch across Smith, Jackson, and Putnam counties, fostering a sense of connection between these vibrant communities.



Exploring the Past and Present

Visitors can delve deeper into the region's history at various museums and historical sites scattered throughout Smith, Jackson, and Putnam counties. Explore local heritage centers, embark on self-guided tours of historical markers, or visit the Cordell Hull Birthplace Museum (located nearby in Pickett County) to learn about the life of this prominent Tennessee politician. These resources offer a glimpse into the lives of those who called this land home before the lake's creation.



Beyond the History

Of course, Cordell Hull Lake offers much more than historical exploration. This beautiful lake caters to all types of travelers. Campgrounds with modern amenities offer a comfortable base for exploration in any of the three counties, while charming cabins and resorts provide a touch of luxury. For those seeking a unique experience, houseboat rentals allow you to truly immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquility of the lake.

A Multi-County Adventure Awaits

Cordell Hull Lake beckons outdoor enthusiasts with its opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, and hiking. Whether you're casting a line for the prized largemouth bass or relaxing on a secluded beach, the lake provides a chance to unwind and reconnect with nature. Take advantage of the lake's central location to explore the unique offerings of Smith, Jackson, and Putnam counties – a true multi-county adventure awaits!

So, if you're looking for a vacation that blends historical intrigue with outdoor adventure, look no further than Cordell Hull Lake. Immerse yourself in the rich legacy of the region, explore the vibrant atmosphere of three connected counties, and create lasting memories in this captivating corner of Tennessee.



Defeated Creek Marina



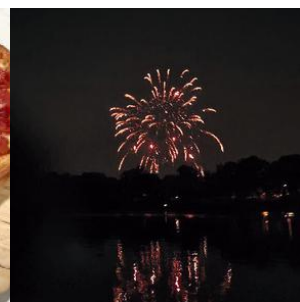
Defeated Creek Park

Cordell Hull Lake

The Defeated Creek Marina off I-40 exit 258, is just an hour's drive east of Nashville, 25 minutes from Gordonsville, and 15 minutes from Carthage. Located in the Defeated Creek Park next to one of the most popular campgrounds in the country. By water we can be found at Cumberland River marker 317, approximately 4 miles from the lock and dam. The Cordell Hull lake is man-made and stretches 72 miles on 12,000 acres of water, with 381 miles of shoreline. The lake boasts the Tennessee state record Rockfish weighing in at 65 pounds, 6 ounces, a record standing since 2001. One of the first things you'll notice in contrast to other lakes is how natural the surroundings are here. Unlike other bodies of water the Cordell Hull is largely off limits to private developments. I consider it the "peace and quiet" lake of Middle Tennessee. Yet in the park you'll find such activities as basketball, tennis, sand volleyball, playgrounds, swimming beach, picnic areas, hiking and biking trails, and of course great fishing and fun on the water.

Our marina offers covered, uncovered, and transient slips. We have a launch ramp and our boat store sells ethanol free fuel, live bait, and all the basics you'd need for boating or camping. Pontoon boats and recently remodeled cabins overlooking the lake are available to rent. Our restaurant, The Creekview Cafe is a very popular spot. We have a gold medal pizza recipe that we make from scratch, homemade dough, sauce, and the best cheese blend we could find. We hand patty our half pound burgers and our catfish is a must. There is a large selection of craft beers and an eight tap draft system. We offer a number of top shelf spirits, and some truly delicious adult concoctions. Frequently there are musical performances as well as bingo or trivia on Wednesday nights. You won't want to miss our Bluegrass Festival in June, our Fourth of July Celebration, or the Haunted Woods attraction every weekend in October. Don't forget to feed our pet fish and enjoy a hand dipped ice cream cone while you're here.

Defeated Creek is a privately owned marina by the Thornton and Jones families. The Thorntons learned the marina was for sale in 2012 and in 2014 they were able to make it their own. This required a leap of faith as they set out to relocate from southwestern Pennsylvania. They just knew this would be a great place to raise a family. The Jones family grew up on the lake and live locally in the Defeated Creek area too. In 2020 they became co-owners of the marina and the new partnership got right to work remodeling and remaking the business. Much has been accomplished and all the hard work is paying off. We are complimented and thanked often for our family friendly vibe. We'd love to introduce you to our super friendly and professional staff. Take comfort in knowing that spending your dollars at a small town, family run business could not be more appreciated. We promise you'll have a lake day experience like no other. Come visit us and make some memories with your littles at the Defeated Creek Marina!



Martin's Grocery:

A Taste of History, Community, and Delicious Food

A Legacy of Hospitality

Nestled in the heart of "downtown" Hoggstown, Tennessee, Martin's Grocery is more than a store – it's a family legacy spanning three generations. Founded in 1962 by D.J. "Mutt" Martin, the store has been a cornerstone of the Defeated Creek community for over six decades. The original location, across the road from the current one, is now covered by the waters of Cordell Hull Lake, a testament to the ever-changing landscape.

Conveniently located near the entrance to Defeated Creek

Nearly Lost, But Found Again

In 2014, the future of Martin's Grocery was uncertain. Jackie and Sandra Martin, the second-generation owners, contemplated selling. But Neely Oldham, their daughter felt the store was like family and became the third generation to serve the Defeated Creek Community in 2015.

A Step Back in Time with Modern Convenience

The name "grocery" does not fully represent all Martin's Grocery offers, it retains its historic roots and country charm. They have essentials milk, bread, and canned goods along with fishing supplies, live bait, and gasoline. However, the real draw is the delicious home-cooked food.

Fueling Your Adventures and Craving More?

Start your day right with a hearty breakfast of sausage, bacon, biscuits, and gravy, or fluffy pancakes. Feeling peckish for lunch? Choose from a classic comforting Southern staple, a build-your-own deli sandwich, or a juicy burger – a local favorite. Don't forget to save room for Neely's homemade desserts, like chocolate pie, banana pudding, or peach cobbler, the perfect ending to any meal. Pizza – yes they have it!

The Heart of the Community

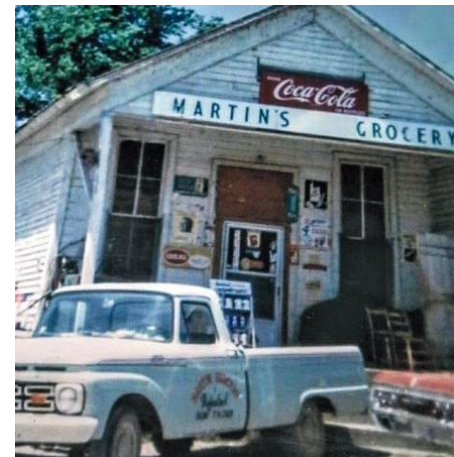
Beyond the delicious food, Martin's Grocery is a gathering place for the Defeated Creek community. Locals catch up over steaming cups of coffee, share stories, and welcome visitors with open arms. Pull up a chair, join the conversation, and experience the true essence of Southern hospitality.

A Destination for Travelers Too

Martin's Grocery isn't just for locals. Travelers venturing off the beaten path on I-40 often find themselves enjoying the warm welcome and delicious food. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or just passing through, Martin's Grocery offers a unique experience you won't find anywhere else.

Make Martin's Grocery Your Defeated Creek Destination

Come experience a taste of history, savor delicious food, soak up the local charm, and feel right at home in the heart of Defeated Creek. Call ahead and place your order!



TUSCANY *inn* TENNESSEE

Tuscany Inn Tennessee is the lifelong dream of Tamara Hassel and Esther Zaccone, two retired school teachers from Florida. After 20 years of visiting Tennessee searching for their dream location, they finally were led to Smith County and discovered the perfect piece of land, reminiscent of the Chianti region of Italy. At last, Tuscany Inn Tennessee was born.

Surrounded by picturesque views, vineyards, and a quiet atmosphere, Tuscany Inn Tennessee is the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. The Trattoria cafe is available for local reservations without a stay, and we welcome hosting your retreat, boutique wedding, and other events. Come enjoy a taste of Tuscany in Tennessee today.



Scan the code to learn more, see the rooms, & book your escape now!





Smith County's Premier BBQ Destination

Voted Best BBQ, Timberloft offers an authentic taste of Southern BBQ that will tantalize your taste buds. From their southern smoked pork to Memphis-style ribs and Texas brisket, every dish is crafted to perfection.



Owners Kevin and Donna moved to Tennessee when Cracker Barrel relocated Kevin here from Michigan in 1992. They always enjoyed taking drives out to the countryside in Smith county and when they saw a building available here they decided it would be a perfect move.



Established in 1997, this privately-owned gem has been a beloved part of Smith County. Timberloft prides itself on providing scratch-made sides, refreshing margaritas, and a beautiful, (dog-friendly patio) where you can unwind and enjoy your meal.

Timberloft also caters to large gatherings, including family reunions, weddings, houseboat parties, and other significant events, ensuring your guests experience renowned BBQ wherever you are.

Their extensive menu includes not only famous BBQ but also a variety of chicken dishes and burgers. Come experience the warmth and flavor of Timberloft - your new favorite BBQ destination.

FAIR ON THE RIVER

Nestled in the heart of Tennessee, the Smith County Fair is a summertime tradition that brings together generations of families and friends for a week of down-home fun. Traditionally in the first week of July, the fairgrounds transform into a magical wonderland, filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of summer.



A Celebration of Community

The Smith County Fair is more than just a carnival. It's a celebration of community, a chance to reconnect with old friends and neighbors, and to make new memories that will last a lifetime. As you stroll through the fairgrounds, you'll be greeted by the warm smiles of local vendors, the infectious laughter of children on carnival rides, and the joyful sounds of live music filling the air.



A Week of Unforgettable Experiences

The fair offers something for everyone. Dads can take their sons to marvel at the prize-winning livestock, while moms can browse the handmade crafts and local produce. Kids can squeal with delight on the thrilling carnival rides, and teenagers can test their skills in exciting contests. In the evenings, the whole family can gather under the stars to enjoy live music, a dazzling fireworks display, or the heart-stopping demolition derby.

Creating Memories that Last a Lifetime

The Smith County Fair is a place where memories are made. It's the place where you might win a giant stuffed animal or devour a heaping helping of delicious fair food. It's the place where you might laugh until your sides hurt watching a pig race or be touched by the heartwarming talent on display in the pageant. But most importantly, it's the place where you'll connect with the people you love and create lasting memories that will be cherished for years to come.



PLAY A LITTLE



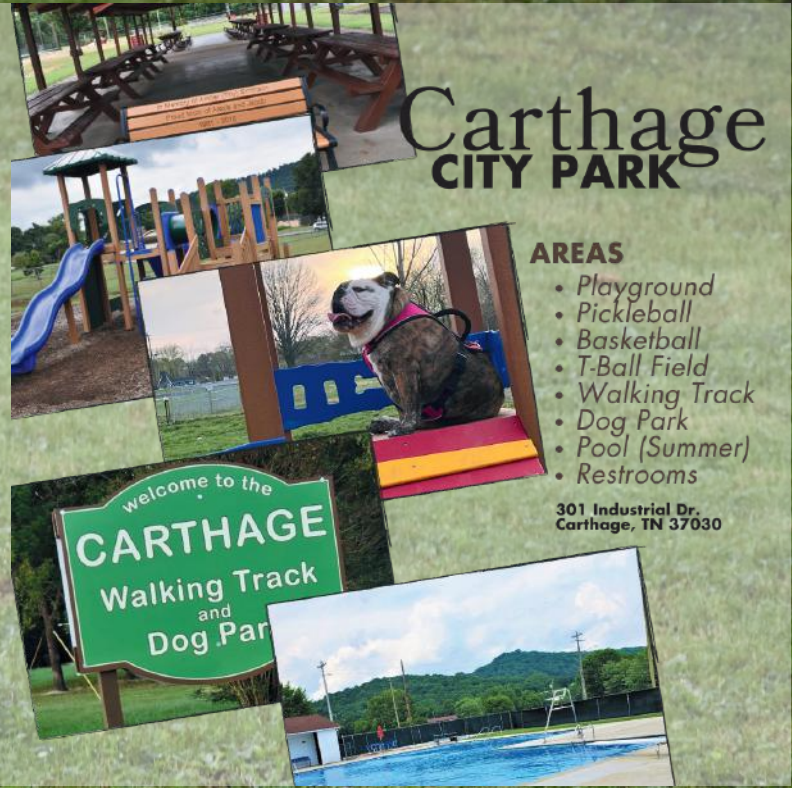
Joy Agee Park

Areas:

- Playground
- Pavilions
- Courts
- Open Grass Space
- Restrooms



157-101 Agee Dr.
Gordonsville, TN 38563



Carthage CITY PARK

AREAS

- Playground
- Pickleball
- Basketball
- T-Ball Field
- Walking Track
- Dog Park
- Pool (Summer)
- Restrooms

301 Industrial Dr.
Carthage, TN 37030



CRUMP PARIS PARK

Areas:

- Ball Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Kid Central Playground
- Walking Track
- Fitness Stations
- Pavilions
- Farmers Market
- Basketball
- Tennis/Pickleball
- Restrooms

132 Gordonsville Hwy
Carthage, TN 37030



Read the passion filled stories of Small Town entrepreneurs and feel their unmatched love for community!



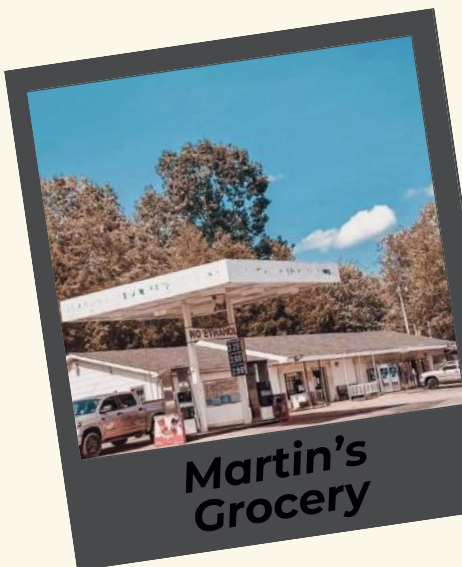
SMALL & HOME



Scan to read their stories!



TOWN Town





STEPHANIE MCCALED INTERIORS

elevating the everyday



Hi, I'm Stephanie

I am the owner of Stephanie McCaleb Interiors and a lifelong resident of Smith County, TN. I truly couldn't imagine establishing my business anywhere else. I have always wanted to own a small business, and that desire fits naturally with my passion for interior design. 2024 marks my seventh collective year as an interior designer, and I have loved every minute.

Main Street in my hometown saw a decline in small businesses over the years, like many small towns, and that further fueled my fire for becoming a business owner. I felt our little town had so much potential and longed to see it thrive again. In January 2020, I launched the interior design side of Stephanie McCaleb Interiors. Then, in June of the same year, the opportunity presented itself to open a retail location on Main Street. By September 2020, the shop officially opened its doors, and Stephanie McCaleb Interiors began to thrive.

Stephanie McCaleb Interiors is a boutique interior design firm and curated home furnishings shop serving Middle Tennessee and beyond. Our goal is to help design clients and retail customers elevate the everyday. Design services offered vary from simple paint color and furniture layout consultations to full-scale renovation and new construction projects. Most of our projects are residential, however, we also take on the occasional commercial space.

At Stephanie McCaleb Interiors, we believe that good design is not just about aesthetics, but also about improving the quality of our clients' lives.

The shop is located at 306 Main Street N. in downtown Carthage and offers a variety of home essentials, including furniture, lighting, textiles, decor, gifts, and more. We want our clients and customers to feel confident in their purchases, knowing that everything we have to offer is something we would use in our own homes. Stop by and say hello! We'd love to meet you.



SHOP SMALL TOWN STYLE

An experience like no other!

SMALL TOWN

Hidden in the hills of Smith County, TN you will find shopping experiences sparsely seen in today's fast-paced world. With a population of just 20,000 you wouldn't expect to find much for the weary traveler. However, a heart-fueled local population has brought new life to small town living and shopping! From one side of the river to the other, there is something for everyone!

Taking a stroll down Carthage's Main Street is calm, peaceful, and full of life all at once. You'll see everything from Coffee to Clothes, from Board Games to Fishing Equipment, from home décor to gems, and so much more! Not to mention the wide variety of locally owned restaurants. In ever-growing Gordonsville there are travelers stores, restaurants, and a few hidden gems!

HOMETOWN

Take a moment to imagine it:

You wake up to the sun rising over the hills. You fell asleep on the porch of your beautiful Airbnb and a family of deer has come to graze in the yard. After enjoying the serenity, you decide to head out for a day of shopping and adventure. But first, energy. You decide to check out the local coffee shop and nutritional tea spots and find your perfect pick me up.

Now you're really ready! While enjoying your morning stroll you meet the owner of one of the many locally owned shops and learn all about their love for this little haven in the hills. You learn about their family, friends, and dreams. They even share a few hidden local spots for the best shopping. Score!

Afterwards you head back out...to the sidewalk. There is such a variety of shopping options in such a small, quaint little town. You realize you could easily spend all day right here venturing through a dozen or more unique little shops and enjoy each meal of the day without having to return to the car or wear out your walking feet!





Escape the interstate drone and unwind on a scenic motorcycle journey through Smith County, Tennessee. Breathe in the fresh air as you meander along country byways, sunlight dappling through leaves overhead. Rolling hills and farmland stretch out before you, punctuated by charming historic towns and hidden waterfalls. Whether you seek a leisurely cruise or a winding, adventurous route, Smith County's backroads offer a delightful escape for motorcyclists of all experience levels.

TAKE A BACKROAD



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Step Back in Time:

A Journey Through Historic Smith County, Tennessee

Smith County, Tennessee whispers tales of a rich past. From Civil War battlefields to grand antebellum mansions, this vibrant region offers a captivating journey for history buffs and curious explorers alike.



Immerse Yourself in the Civil War Era:

- The summit of Battery Knob, a strategic hilltop where Union soldiers positioned cannons to control traffic along the Cumberland River. Imagine the booming artillery and the vital role this location played in the Civil War.
- Carthage: Walk the streets where soldiers once marched. See the Carthage United Methodist Church, a witness to the war's devastation, and the memorial at Ridgewood Cemetery, a poignant reminder of the conflict's human cost.

See Grand Homes and Architectural Gems:

- Cullum Mansion: Marvel at the grandeur of this meticulously restored Italianate villa.
- Fite-Williams-Ligon House: Step back in time at this Federal-style home, beautifully preserved with period furnishings and offering a glimpse into the lives of early Smith County residents.
- Smith County Courthouse: Admire the architectural majesty of this historic courthouse, a cornerstone of Carthage since 1872.



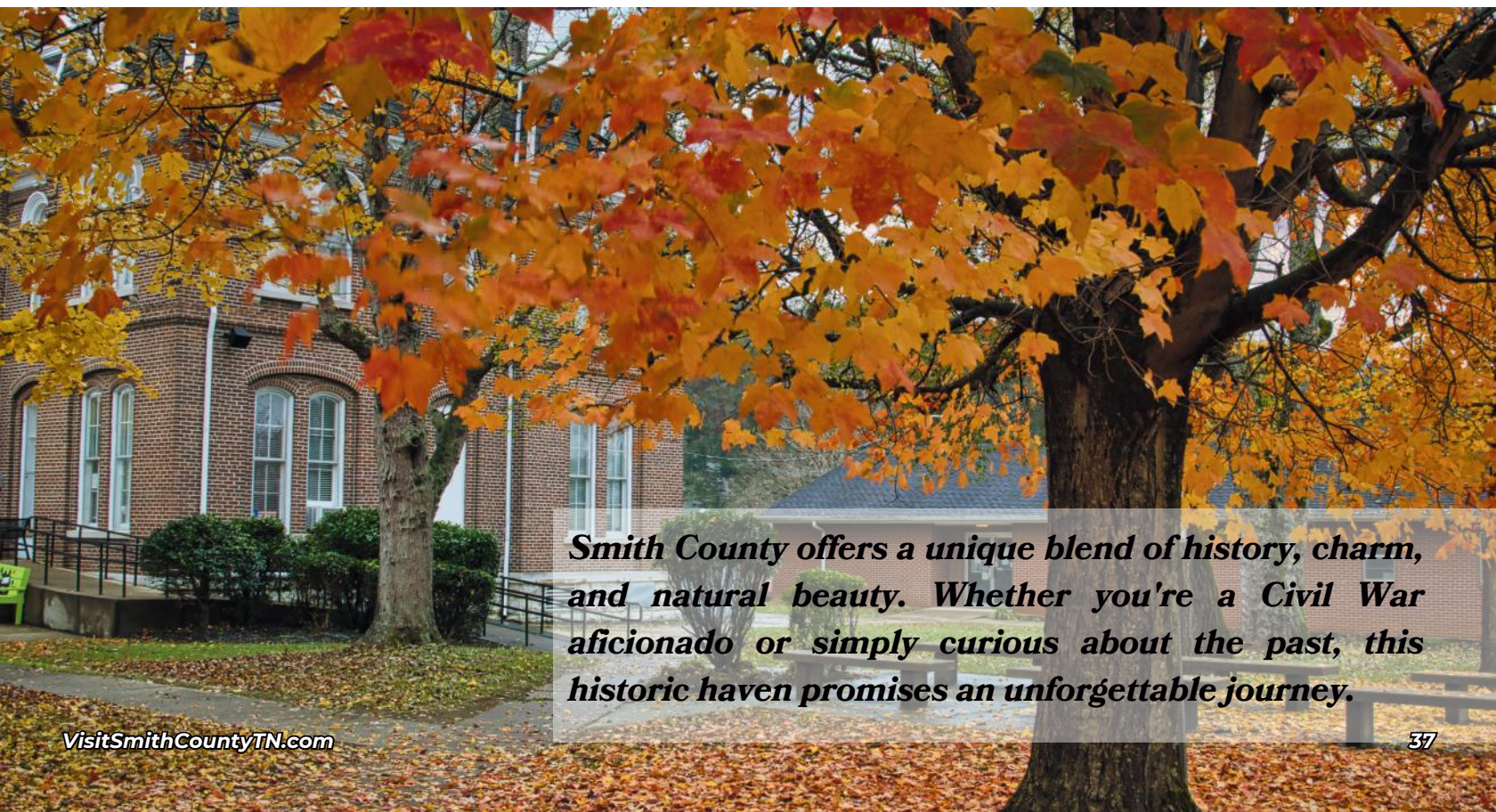
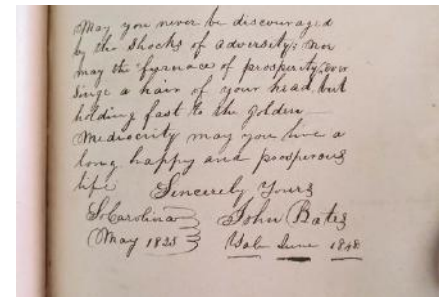
Beyond the Grand Mansions:

- **Smith County Heritage Museum:** Delve deeper into local history at this charming museum. Explore exhibits on farming, industry, and the everyday lives of Smith County residents throughout the ages.
- **The Rusted Ferry:** Uncover the story of Carthage's bustling past at this unique landmark. See the remnants of a once-important ferry that transported goods and people across the Cumberland River.



Unwind and Explore:

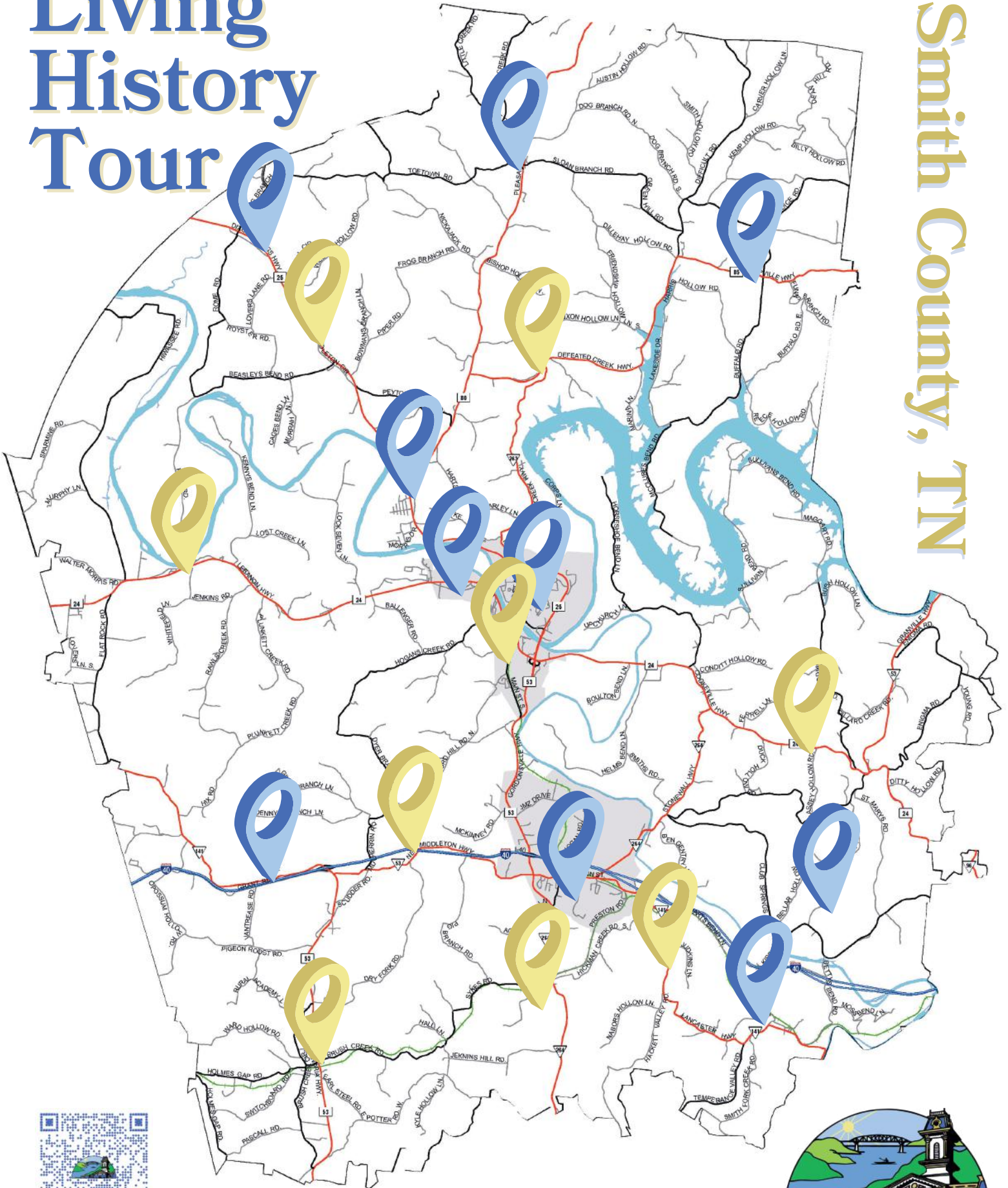
After your historical adventures, unwind amidst the scenic beauty of Smith County. Hike or bike along the South Carthage Rail Trail, or take a scenic drive along the Walton Road Historic Byway.



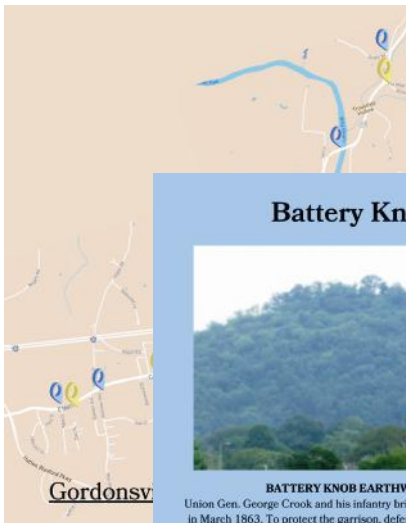
Smith County offers a unique blend of history, charm, and natural beauty. Whether you're a Civil War aficionado or simply curious about the past, this historic haven promises an unforgettable journey.

Living History Tour


Smith County, TN



Immerse Yourself in HISTORY



Battery Knob



BATTERY KNOB EARTHWORKS
 Union Gen. George Crook and his infantry brigade occupied Carthage in March 1863. To protect the garrison, defend the town, and secure the Cumberland River crossing for troops and supplies, he constructed a small fortification here for an artillery battery. Crook described the works in a letter to Gen. James A. Garfield on April 2, 1863: "The battery commands all the ground from the town to right of the Gallatin Pike." Also known as Battery Hill, this privately owned site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

[Carthage Map](#)

Historic Markers



BENTON McMILLIN HISTORICAL MARKER
 A native of Kentucky, Benton McMillin moved to Celina at an early age and later to Carthage. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1874 and Congress in 1879 for a twenty year tenure. Benton McMillin served two terms as Governor, 1899-1903, promoting the public school system. The "Democratic Warhorse of Tennessee" died in Nashville.

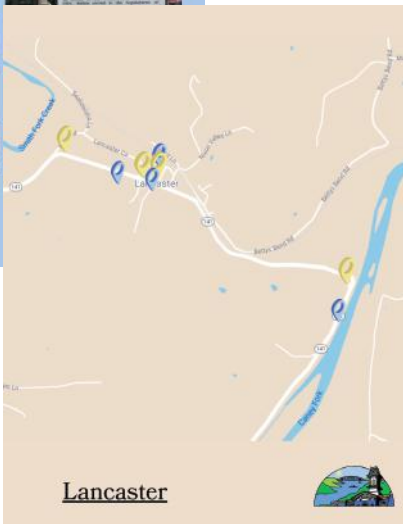


CAPTAIN WILLIAM WALTON HISTORICAL MARKER
 Born in Bertie County, North Carolina, Walton fought in the Revolution for that state. He settled in the Cumberland country in 1784. Walton served in the legislatures of North Carolina and Tennessee and was a Smith County magistrate. He built Walton's Road in 1801 and operated stands along its route. Lumbermen settlers traveled this road en route to middle and West Tennessee.



BIG AGE IN UPPER KENTUCKY
 An important event from the early 19th century was the logging industry which began with the late 18th century and continued until the late 19th century. The logging industry in the area of Carthage, Tennessee, was one of the earliest in the South. The logging industry in the area of Carthage, Tennessee, was one of the earliest in the South. The logging industry in the area of Carthage, Tennessee, was one of the earliest in the South.

[Carthage Map](#)



Take yourself on a historic driving tour of our hometown; from the logging company that burnt for 5 years to the little early 1900's tavern that stands at the corner of a railroad and thoroughfare crossing!

Interactive Map



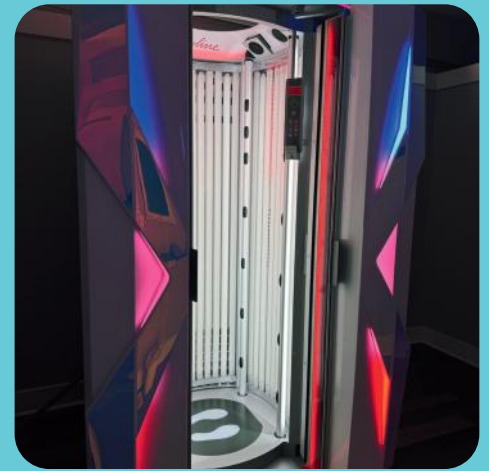


Teresa's Gifts

& TANNING SALON

303 Main St. North, Carthage, TN 37030

615-588-1990



Teresa's Gifts & Tanning Salon is located in the heart of downtown Carthage. This establishment was put in place in 2019 by John Leftwich Jr. and his wife Caroline Leftwich. Prior to Teresa's Gifts was an antique store. It was owned and operated by John's late mother Teresa Turner. A lifelong resident of Carthage Tennessee. Teresa was a kind and caring soul. She had a love for gifting others. She also loved tanning! Unfortunately, in 2018 Teresa lost her life due to cancer. After this John and Caroline took over the establishment. They wanted to continue the business Teresa had started. However, at the time the market for antiques fell away. They wanted to make their space something inclusive and updated while still honoring the memory of Teresa Turner. Considering her love for gift giving and tanning, they decided to incorporate these things into their new business. From that became Teresa's Gifts & Tanning Salon. Teresa's Gifts & Tanning Salon prides themselves on their friendly and attentive customer service. At Teresa's you can find something for everyone. There are a variety of products, clothes and gifts to select from. Some of these include men's and women's t-shirts and clothes, shoes, and even children's clothes. Teresa's Gifts is dedicated to supplying their storefront with up to date in style clothing, accessories, and gifts. At Teresa's Gifts you can also find a great selection of handmade items made locally in Smith County. Defeated Creek Designs focuses on custom woodwork, signs, and gifts. They also carry Zippo lighters and Case Knives. You will also find K.C. Designs products within the store. They also have hand made wood signs, handmade cutting boards, and hand painted and cute car charms. As well as, custom cup toppers and engraved cups. Lastly, at Teresa's Gifts you will find four luxury commercial grade tanning beds. These beds are high quality and allow for the ultimate tanning experience. Our stand up LED red light bed is the newest addition to our beds at Teresa's. This bed focuses on tanning while also protecting and preserving the skin. Overall we have something for everyone. Stop by Monday through Saturday and shop or tan with us. You can also check out our website and shop from there. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with new product releases, events, and to book your next tanning appointment!

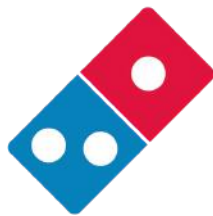


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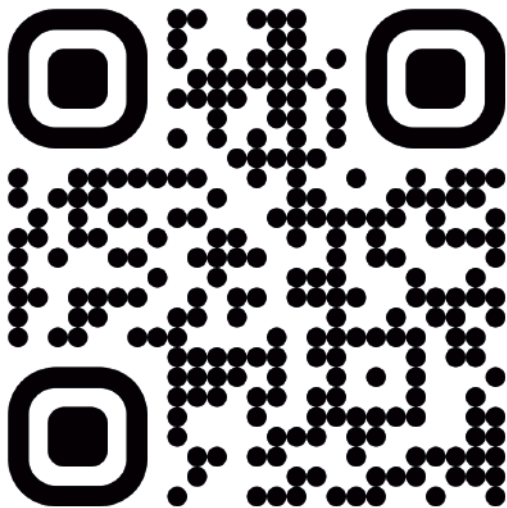
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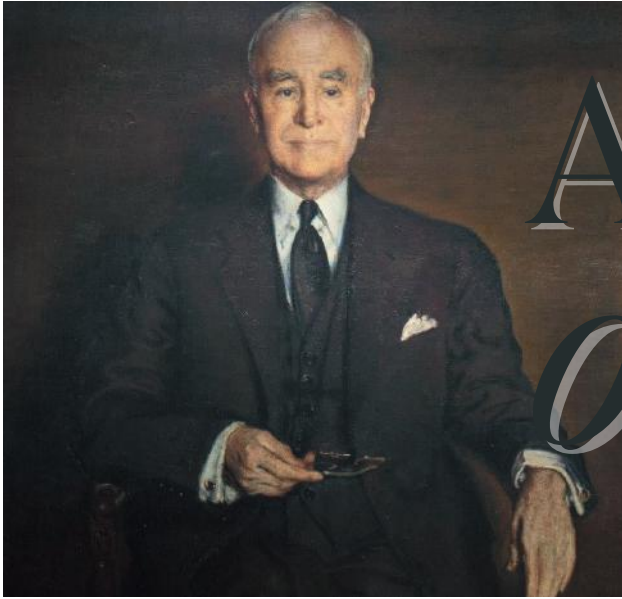


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A Wellspring *of peace.*

Smith County boasts TWO Nobel Peace Prize Winners

Smith County has a long and proud history, and a surprising claim to fame: two Nobel Peace Prize winners! That's right, our little corner of Tennessee has produced not one, but two individuals recognized for their work in promoting peace around the world.

First up is Al Gore, Jr., who many will recognize as the former vice president of the United States. But Gore's accomplishments extend far beyond the political sphere. In 2007, he was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for diligent work towards raising awareness of the worldwide issue that is climate change. Gore's tireless work on environmental issues has brought international attention to the dangers of climate change, and inspired countless people to take action.



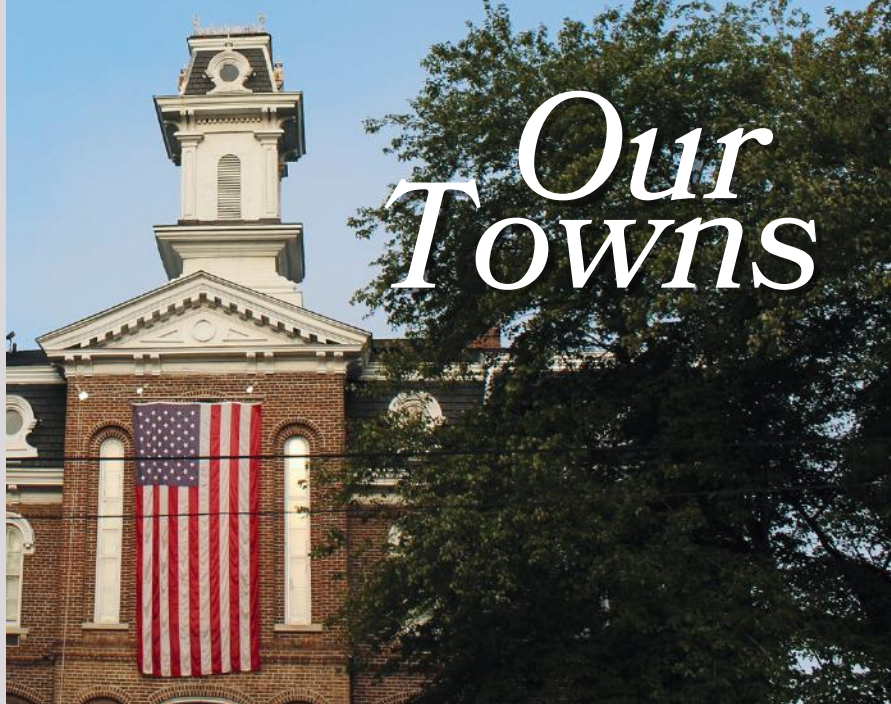
Smith County is also home to Cordell Hull, a statesman whose dedication to peace earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1945. Hull served as U.S. Secretary of State for an unprecedented twelve years, and played a pivotal role in forging the international alliances that helped bring an end to World War II. He was also a key architect of the United Nations, an organization dedicated to maintaining peace and security around the globe.

These two Nobel laureates are a testament to the spirit of Smith County. Here, amidst the rolling hills and friendly communities, we have a long tradition of working towards a more peaceful world. So next time you're visiting Smith County, be sure to take a moment to reflect on the legacy of peace that our county has helped create. And who knows, maybe you'll be inspired to make your own contribution to a brighter, more peaceful future.

Smith County celebrates these two incredible individuals with Nobel Peace Prize Celebrations. The event features a banquet and other recognitions, and is a great way to learn more about Gore and Hull's accomplishments. For more information, visit the Smith County Heritage Museum

Town of Carthage

Steeped in history and Small Town charm, Carthage, Tennessee, offers a delightful escape. Explore the charming downtown with its historic buildings, visit the Smith County Heritage Museum, or kayak the scenic Caney Fork River. Foodies will love the local restaurants, while unique shops offer the perfect souvenirs and gifts. Come out to experience Carthage's warm and inviting hospitality!



Our Towns



Town of Gordonsville

Immerse yourself in history and modern convenience in Gordonsville, Tennessee! Explore fascinating historical sites that whisper tales of the past, then unwind at a bustling interstate town offering a variety of shops, restaurants, and amenities for the modern traveler. Gordonsville – where the charm of yesterday meets the vibrancy of today!

South Carthage

Escape the ordinary and discover South Carthage, Tennessee, a charming community nestled amidst rolling hills and scenic beauty. Attend Tennessee's favorite small town Fair on the River, kayak the scenic Caney Fork River, walk the track, or unwind at a local park. South Carthage offers a delightful Southern escape for history buffs, nature lovers, and anyone seeking small-town charm.



VisitSmithCountyTN.com

Defeated

Despite its name, a trip to Defeated, Tennessee, is anything but! This hidden gem offers a surprising dose of Hometown charm. Home foremost to Smith County's busiest tourist destination: Defeated Creek Marina and campground. Don't miss a scenic hike or bike ride through the surrounding countryside, and leave Defeated feeling refreshed and invigorated.



Scenic History



On the road



A Picture Says

A THOUSAND WORDS

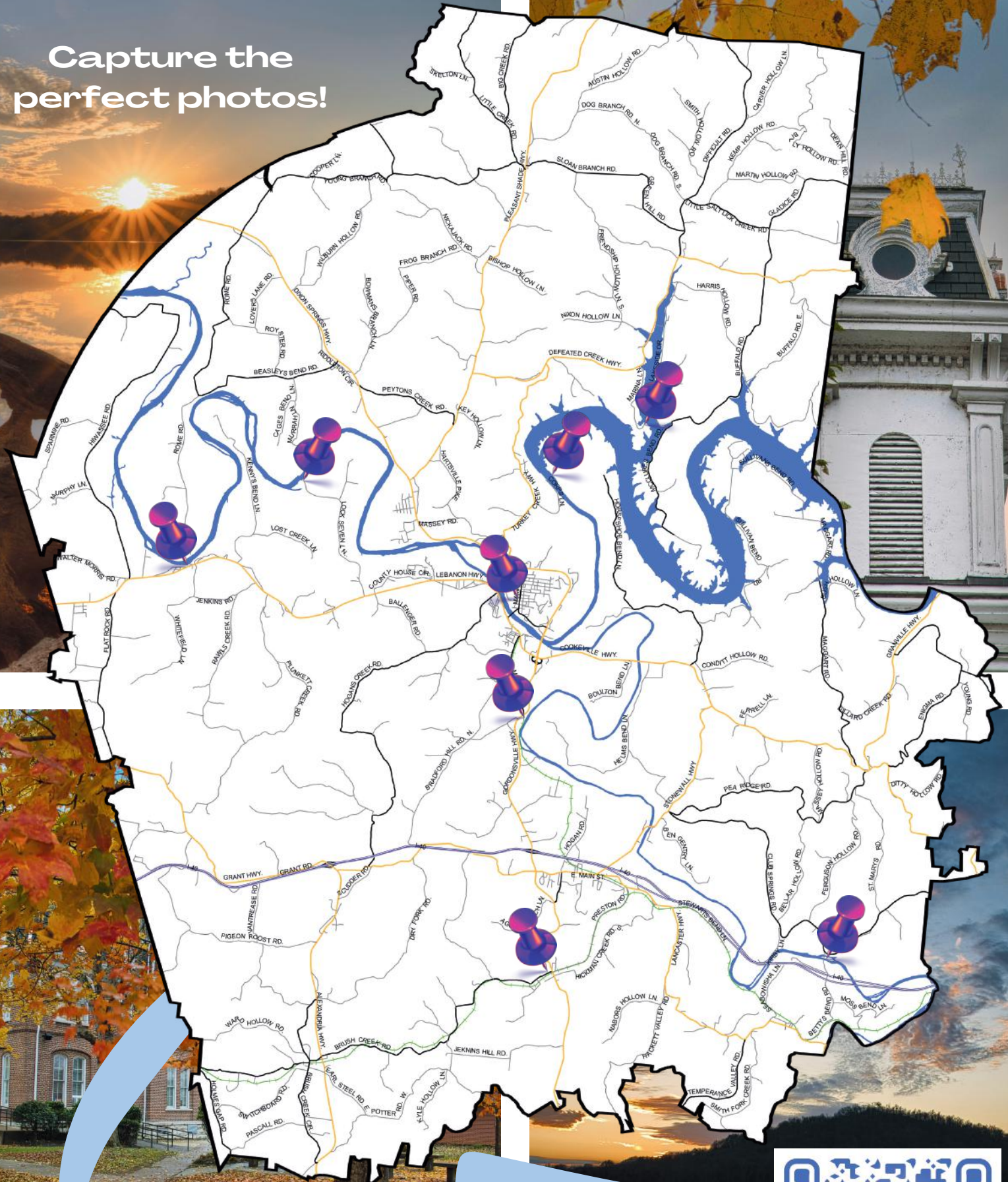
On the trails



By the water



Capture the perfect photos!



Interactive Map

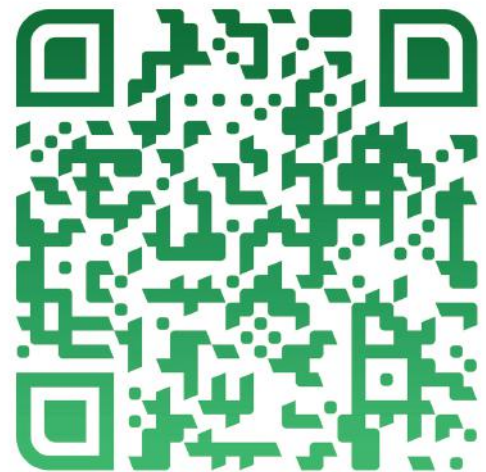


HIKING

Hit the Trails



Visit one of three Smith
County trails!



Better Together

All Roads Lead Home

Dekalb
Jackson
Macon
Putnam
Troupdale
Wilson

“

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

~Helen Keller

Tour Surrounding Small Towns

Dekalb

DeKalb County is located in the eastern part of Middle Tennessee, bordering the Cumberland Plateau. It's known for its natural beauty, with waterfalls, scenic overlooks, and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities.



Trousdale

Trousdale County is a small, rural county nestled in north-central Tennessee. The county seat, Hartsville, offers a charming historic downtown area with shops and restaurants.



Macon

Macon County is a small, rural county nestled in north-central Tennessee. Agriculture plays a significant role in the county's economy, and visitors can enjoy fresh produce at local farms and farmers markets.



Wilson

Wilson County is located in north-central Tennessee, near Nashville. The county is known for its historic sites, like the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson, and its thriving agricultural industry.

Jackson

Jackson County sits in the northeastern part of Tennessee. The county boasts a rich history and culture, with historical sites and events throughout the year.



Putnam

Putnam County is a rural county located in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee. Center Hill Lake, a popular destination for boating and fishing, is a major attraction in the county.



Communities that work together, thrive together.

ESCAPE TO TRANQUILITY

@ Wildwood Resort & Marina

Nestled on the serene shores of Cordell Hull Lake, less than an hour east of the bustling sounds of Nashville, lies **Wildwood Resort & Marina**—a tranquil oasis beckoning travelers to unwind, taste, explore, and create lasting memories. Situated amidst the lush landscapes of the Cumberland mountains in historic Granville, this hidden gem offers a picturesque retreat for the mind, palette, body and soul.

Boutique Accommodations: Wildwood offers a range of lodging options to suit every preference, from cozy waterfront cabins and lake homes nestled among the trees to spacious floating cottages and classic Airstreams. Each accommodation is thoughtfully designed with comfort and convenience in mind, providing guests with a welcoming retreat after a day of adventure.



Endless Adventures: Outdoor enthusiasts can discover the expansive lake through boat and kayak rentals or join guided cruises and fishing trips. If land activities are more your style, hiking trails meander through the nearby wilderness. Enjoy a sandy beach for a refreshing dip, a bocce ball court, and various engaging yard games for entertainment. Additionally, indulge in a professional massage to unwind.

Culinary Excellence: At Wildwood's Lakeside Restaurant, dining becomes an adventurous culinary experience guided by Executive Chef Chris Maxwell. Relax with cocktails on the deck facing the lake, or enjoy al fresco dining under the stars. Every bite offers a harmonious blend of flavors, celebrating the region's culinary heritage.

Discover the Hidden Gem of Wildwood Resort & Marina—where nature meets luxury and every moment is an adventure. Whether you seek a romantic getaway, a family reunion, or a corporate retreat, may the unbeaten path lead you to Wildwood.



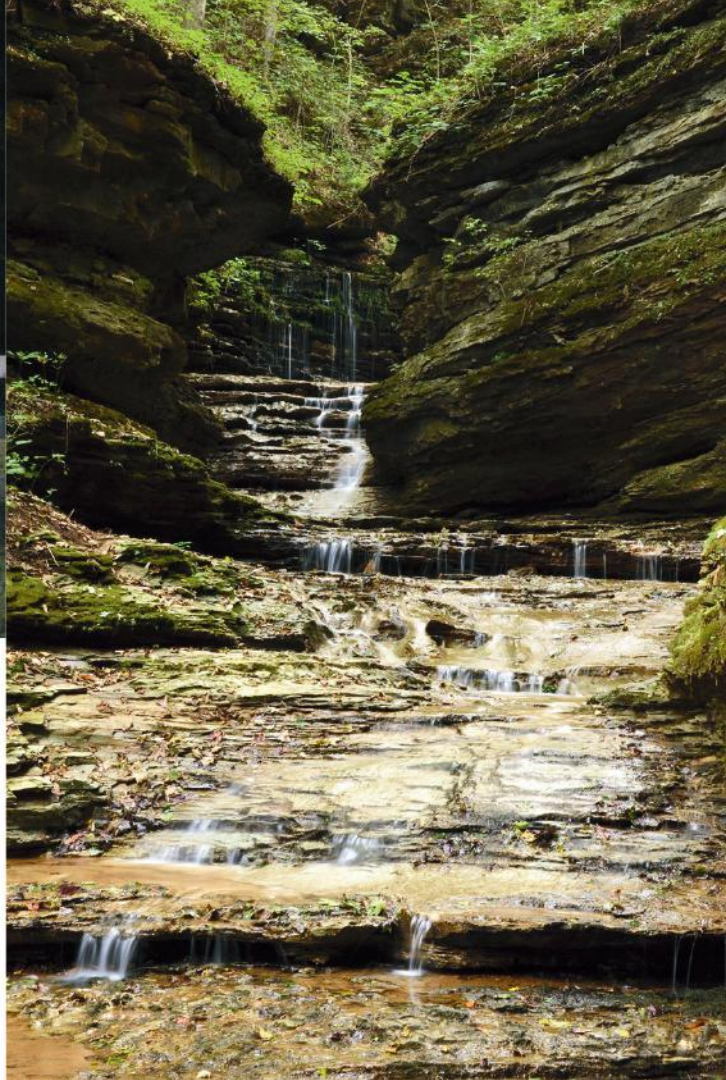
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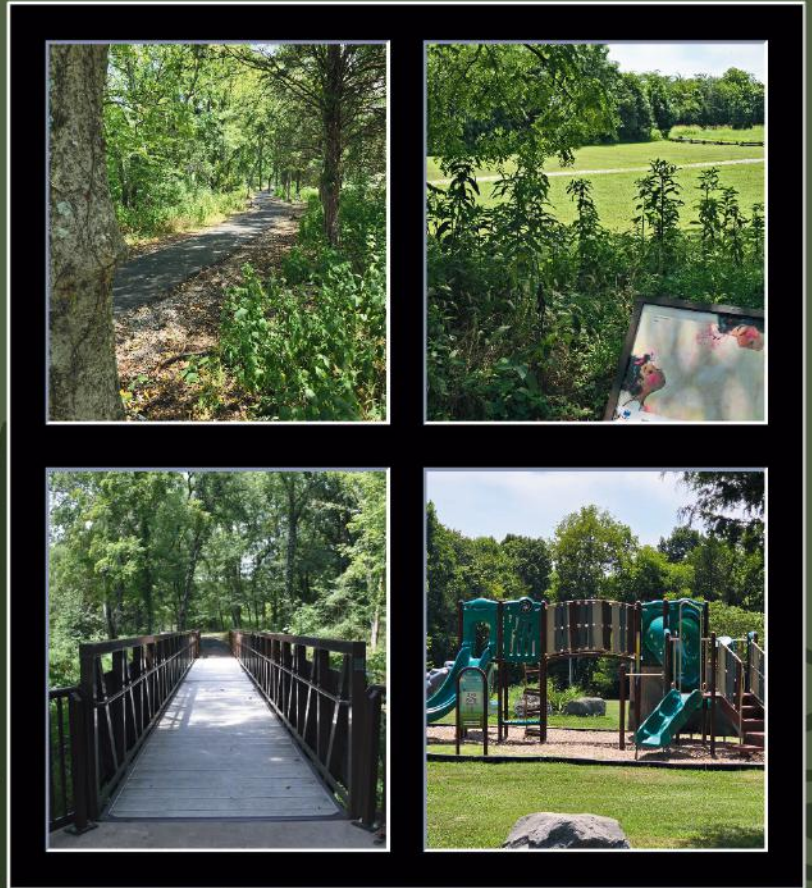
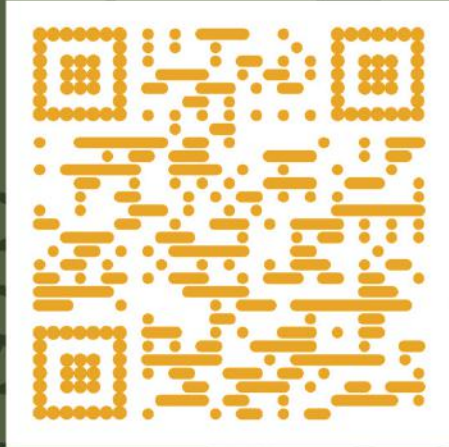
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Fork from Smith
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Water,
trails



Cedar's of Lebanon

STATE PARK



Taylors Landing



Trousdale Boat Ramps



Second Creek



A WORD FROM THE CHAMBER DIRECTOR

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary alongside the 225th anniversary of Smith County, we reflect on the remarkable journey begun by Captain William Walton and Major Tillman Dixon. Their pioneering spirit down the Shantee River (Cumberland) laid the foundation for our community, driven by dreams of a better life for themselves and their families.

At the Smith County Chamber of Commerce, our mission is clear: to champion the economic, civic, commercial, industrial, and educational interests that define Smith County. For over a decade, it has been my honor to serve as Director, witnessing firsthand the vibrancy and warmth of our towns and county.

In this special edition magazine, we invite you to delve into our rich local history, experience our renowned hospitality, and uncover the driving forces behind our community's actions. We are committed to fostering an environment where businesses, industries, and residents collaborate towards a prosperous future.



Our vision is strong and ambitious yet straightforward: to cultivate a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and inspired. Through dedicated committees addressing diverse needs, we ensure Smith County remains a place where dreams can take root and flourish.

Come and explore our small towns and embrace genuine southern charm. Whether you're here for a visit or considering a more permanent stay, we believe you'll discover why Smith County is not just a place on a map, but a place you'll want to call home.

Bill Woodard
CHAMBER DIRECTOR

CHAMBER DIRECTORY



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315 N. Main St
Carthage, TN 37030

The Exchange Club/Stephens Center
(931) 823-6432
616 N Church St Suite B
Livingston, TN 38570

The Pavilion Senior Living
(615) 588-1040
130 Lebanon Highway
Carthage, TN 37030

The Rogue and Raven
(615) 489-7804
224 Main Street N
Carthage, TN 37030

ThreadBent
(615) 281-0931
87 Dyer Branch
Gordonsville, TN 38563

Timberloft
(615) 683-5070
470 Gordonsville Hwy
Gordonville, TN 38563

Tom Arnold Construction Co.
(615) 735-2155
121 Langford Rd.
Carthage, TN 37030

Treehouse Treasures, LLC
(615) 735-7494
320 Main St N
Carthage, TN 37030

Tuscany Inn Tennessee
(615) 683-0577
45 Nabors Hollow Lane
Hickman, TN 38567

Two Foundations Construction
(615) 588-6645
26 Jean Drive
Carthage, TN 37030

U. T. Extension
(615) 735-2900
125 Gordonsville Hwy Ste 300
Carthage, TN 37030

Underwood Hometown Realty
(615) 683-3300
14 E Main St Ste D
Gordonsville, TN 38563

Upper Cumberland Business Journal
(931) 528-8852
480 Neal St Ste. 201
Cookeville, TN 38501

UCEMC
(615) 735-2940
P.O. Box 159
Carthage, TN 37030

UC Local Workforce Development Board
(931) 520-9590
1000 England Dr., Suite 201
Cookeville, TN 38501

Volunteer State College Foundation
(615) 230-4788
1480 Nashville Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066

Waggoner Building
(615) 418-6577
115 Main St South
Carthage, TN 37030

Wildwood Resort & Marina
(931) 653-4360
7316 Granville Hwy
Granville, TN 38564

Wilson Bank & Trust
(615) 735-3990
1300 Main St. N
Carthage, TN 37030

World Finance Loan & Tax Service
(615) 735-3424
35 Dixon Springs Hwy.
Carthage, TN 37030

Youth & Family Resource-The Spot
(615) 489-5900
P O Box 574
Carthage, TN 37030



SMITH COUNTY

The Gateway to the Upper Cumberland

The Lookout

Scenic view of Cordell Hull Dam

Smith County is uniquely situated on interstate 40 with quick access to the scenic getaways of the Upper Cumberland and the bustling city life of Middle TN!

